



**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

DATE: August 18, 2006

TO: George M. Burgess
County Manager

FROM: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos", is written over the printed name of Carlos Alvarez.

SUBJECT: FY06-07 Proposed Community-Based Organization Funding Recommendations

In recognizing the integral role that our Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) play in meeting the needs of our residents, it is not only appropriate, but an obligation, for our government to provide financial support to assist them in providing their respective services. With a population as diverse as Miami-Dade County, there is no doubt that the specialized expertise, coordination of resources, and targeted efforts of our CBOs have made valuable contributions to the well-being of our community.

Your June 16, 2006, memorandum on the above referenced subject lists funding recommendations for CBOs using General Fund dollars. As you know, these are essentially \$25.2 million in non-competitive allocations because they were determined outside of any of the competitive processes that are currently overseen by the County (such as that of the Alliance for Human Services, Environmental Programs, Cultural Programs, etc.). To ensure accountability for the use of these taxpayer dollars, I am requesting that you propose – prior to the first budget hearing – a more stringent monitoring and auditing process that would occur on an ongoing basis. I am also requesting a report detailing the number and proportion of CBOs that have been audited in the past two years, as well as the outcomes of those audits. Furthermore, as noted in my budget message, I would like a status on the centralization of grant management for all County departments.

For the privilege of receiving County dollars, all CBOs should be randomly audited and expected to provide documentation as to (1) how they are/have spent County dollars and (2) how they have delivered on their commitments. With so many worthy organizations competing for our limited resources, we must ensure that adequate safeguards are in place and that funding is distributed in the most effective manner. Regardless of the process, it is of utmost importance that the expenditure of public dollars remains transparent.

c: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of Courts
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board